

**If you could replay or examine your prayers to God in your mind, (the things that you most often pray for) what would you learn? What would you change?**

Every one of us, as children of God ought to be people of continual prayer to our God/our Heavenly Father. These scriptural truths should characterize each of us in regard to Biblical prayer:

Pray without ceasing; Continue instant in prayer; In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God; Men (and women) ought always to pray, and not to faint, (or lose heart to pray)

But what do you MOST OFTEN REQUEST and ASK for from God? Do you ONLY pray as a reaction to something that happened; or a bad situation? Or only when someone asks you to pray? For the sick or some need for someone in this life?

Or do you pray proactively; by that I mean; do you purposely and deliberately and frequently go to your secret place of prayer and communion with God and ask Him for what He taught you to ask Him for?

Matthew 6:6-8

Notice, the Lord Jesus said, when you pray; Christian, your life is to be immersed in communion and prayer unto your heavenly Father; but also, your Lord knows what THINGS you have need of before you ask Him.

This past few months have been trying for us as a church; (at least it has been for me); Pastoring while not being able to gather on the Lord's Day or to see you face to face was difficult. E-mail, texting, or phone calls are not very personal. I am thankful that God helped me in the Word (in this time), and (He God helped me) to pray more frequently for each of you, primarily for your souls and for your spiritual needs.

For each of us, this pandemic should have been a time of increased personal communion with God in PRAYER!

Did it ever cross your mind that God isolated and separated you from the church gathering to draw you closer to Himself?

If you looked at FB during the pandemic, you saw many people looking for things to do; you read things like, I don't know what to do with myself, I am so bored, let's play a FB game. There is nothing wrong with playing a FB game; but child of God, did you make better use of your time of isolation by separating yourself unto God and seeking His presence?

Are you coming out of isolation CLOSER and more INTIMATE with God? Are you walking MORE by faith and LESS by sight NOW than before the pandemic? Do you know the Lord Jesus Christ better? Do you love Him and His Word more? Did you frequent God's inner sanctuary and commune with Him more than you did before? Did you learn and are you learning how to pray? Are you learning to wait upon God? Are you learning to trust

God's wise providence in your life?

God is working in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure

Beloved: We were forced to separate from each other because of the Coronavirus, but did you make good use of your separation to draw closer to God and to seek His presence?

James 4:8: Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you

Did you find that intimate place of prayer and communion with God? Back to my opening point; if you could replay and evaluate your prayers in your mind, the times of intimacy that you had with the Lord over the past few months, what would you learn? What did you pray for? Luke 11:1-4

### **Christian, the Lord's Prayer speaks of intimacy, closeness, and communion with God as your Heavenly Father**

This is the pattern for how you are to pray!

If you don't pray, it is not because you are too busy, it is because of your lack of intimacy with God.

But you should note that is that every request and supplication in this passage and which the Lord is teaching us to pray is spiritual!

Read and explain (V2-4)

Understand that your daily prayers and supplications to your Heavenly Father should primarily be focused toward bonding your soul with heaven and with Christ; transforming you from being earthly and worldly minded, to being spiritual and heavenly minded.

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. 1 Kings 3:5-13

The primary focus of Solomon's prayer to God was the result of His intimacy and love to God from his heart. The most important thing to Solomon was to honor and please God in his life as King in Israel.

God answered Solomon's prayer and also gave him what he didn't ask for!

O that we all might learn that the most NEEDFUL THINGS for us to pray for are not the needs of this life; but our spiritual needs, and our relationship with Christ; the needs of our souls!

### **What we ought to ask for (often) in prayer is for what the Lord Jesus' disciples asked of Him in Luke 11:1: Lord, teach us to pray**

There is no better place to learn how to pray than from the Holy Scriptures! The scriptures are full of examples of what should be the primary focus of our prayers and supplications to our Heavenly Father.

But don't forget what I said earlier, if you don't have an intimate prayer relationship with God, it is NOT because you're too busy, it's because you're not intimate with God! If you ARE intimate with God, you WILL commune with God often in prayer! You will want to KNOW more of Him and His Holy will or your life! This will be you! Psalms 63:1-8, 73:25-26

If your heart is NOT the heart of the Psalmist, you should PRAY that your heart becomes the heart of the Psalmist!

**Your intimacy and love to Christ OUGHT to be the primary focus of your prayer life:**

For we walk by faith, not by sight; prayer is an exercise of faith! If you would have your faith increased and draw closer to God, you must enter by faith into the presence of God, and pray that God would reveal more of Himself and His Word to you; that is how your faith in God will be increased! If this is your heart, and this is HOW you are praying; you are PRAYING RIGHT!

But if your first and primary requests are for secondary things; (the things of this life); you have it backwards. Remember Matthew 6:33! Solomon!

**Listen to the prayers of the Apostle Paul and you will BETTER understand how you ought to be praying:**

Ephesians 1:15-20 (Psalm 119:34, 169)

That God would reveal more about God to you! The eyes of your understanding would be enlightened, so that you would KNOW the hope of your calling in Christ!

Ephesians 3:14-21 (2 Corinthians 4:16)

That you would be strengthened in the inner man, and that you would be able to comprehend and know the love of Christ, which is not knowable apart from God revealing Himself to you! That you would be filled with the fulness of God!

Philippians 1:9-11 (Ephesians 5:1-2, Philippians 2:15)

That the love of Christ would grow and abound in your life; and that you would be sincere and without offence until the day of Christ!

**And finally, listen to the supplications/prayers of Christ:**

John 17:1-3, 20-26

**The cry of every one of our hearts today, and every day should be:**

Lord, teach US/teach me ME to pray; But we cannot stop there, we must go to the Word. If we are going to learn to pray, we must go to the Holy Scriptures, listen to the prayers of the saints from the Psalms, listen to the prayers of the prophets and apostles, listen to the prayers of the Lord Jesus!

After you learn what the scriptures teach about how you ought to pray, it is then left up to you to learn to (ACTUALLY) pray to your Heavenly Father.

If you don't pray, perhaps you're not a child of God; for what child never speaks to their Father?